

**SAN DIEGO COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY
FIRE AND RESCUE BRANCH**

**VOLUNTEER WATER TENDER DRIVER
Fire Support Staff / Non Firefighter / Non Stipend**

Description Created: November 19, 2008

Revised: April 20, 2010

PURPOSE AND DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:

The Volunteer Water Tender Driver position is a non-firefighter support position. This position is responsible for driving water tender vehicles, operating water tender pumps, setting up empty portable tanks, and to supply water to fire apparatus. Provides additional water supply to suppress fires of all types including but not limited to structure, wild land, and vehicle fires.

This position is not authorized to engage in fire suppression operations and when at the scene of an emergency works under the direction of the incident commander or his/her designee.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES:

The examples of functions listed in this class specification are representative but not necessarily exhaustive or descriptive of any one position in the class. Management is not precluded from assigning other related functions not listed herein if such functions are a logical assignment for the position.

Essential Functions:

- Fills a water tender vehicle.
- Operates fire pumps.
- Sets up empty portable tanks.
- Supplies water to fire apparatus.
- Drags hoses from water tender to fire engine.
- Dries hoses and then rolls up for storage.
- Operates mobile radios.
- Maintains and monitors assigned equipment.
- Provides additional water supply to suppress fires.
- Inspects, maintains and monitors water tender vehicle for maintenance.
- Performs all other related duties as assigned by a supervisor.
- Maintains a safe and healthy workplace in accordance with all appropriate OSHA laws, regulations, and rules

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES:

Each volunteer brings a unique combination of experience, knowledge, skills and abilities to the team. Knowledge that is particularly applicable to this type of assignment includes:

- Must have the ability to work calmly under the stress of emergency situations.
- Must have the ability to stand and sit for long periods of time.
- Must have the ability to operate water tender trucks during various times of day.
- Must have the ability to remember new and updated detailed complex information; such as changes in policy and procedures.
- Must have the ability to apply information in a logical manner.

- Must have the ability to maintain composure.
- Must have the ability to confront stressful situations.
- Must have the ability to withstand the effects of exposure to traumatic situations.
- Must have the ability to learn and utilize appropriate radio protocol with fire and emergency medical services personnel.
- Must have the ability to follow orders from supervisors.
- Must have the ability to effectively communicate orally (shouting at times) and in writing in English.
- Must have the ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with community personnel, other fire agencies, outside agencies, and the general public.
- Must have the ability to use computers and computer programs that assist in the accomplishment of assigned tasks and proper documentation of incidents.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Volunteer Water Tender Driver's must possess the mental and emotional ability to successfully perform the essential duties of such an assignment. This position operates under day and nighttime hours, adverse weather and fire conditions, and on rural narrow roads. The physical characteristics described here are representative of those that must be met:

- Frequently must be able to endure long shifts.
- Occasionally involves complex decision making.
- Frequently involves extended periods of time away from home.
- Frequently carries, twists, pulls, and tugs a hose to fill the tender from a hydrant or portable tank to fill a tank or engine.
- Frequently carries hoses weighing between 25 to 50 pounds. The hose is rolled out dry and connected and then rolled out wet to dry out; then rolled back up for storage.
- Must frequently be able to open and close intake and discharge valves that are connected to plumbing.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

Previous experience desirable but not required; AND,

1. Must be a high school graduate or have passed the GED Requirements at time of appointment.
2. Be able to read and write English at a level required for successful job performance.
3. Be at least 18 years of age.

A valid California Driver's License Class appropriate for the vehicle being driven is required at time of appointment and must be maintained throughout volunteering in this position.

Prior to beginning any water tender driver activities the volunteer must:

Attend 8 hour CAL FIRE Hired Equipment Safety Course plus a radio operation course.

Attend the SDCFA Driver Operator – 40 hour course and successfully pass the performance exam driving a SDCFA Water Tender. Note: Applicants with previous experience as a Water Tender Operator may be issued a certificate by the individual agencies to meet this requirement.

Volunteer Water Tender Operators may respond to a larger response area and support major fires where water tenders are needed. This will be for immediate need and long-term assignments may result in replacement water tender operator or hired as extra help by a Forest Agency.

WORKING CONDITIONS:

Volunteer Water Tender Operators will be called upon to respond and work in all types of weather and less than ideal conditions. They may be assigned to remote areas. They may work 24-hour shifts, sometimes on weekends and holidays and live in a fire station with others during shifts.

Desirable Traits:

Communicates effectively, knowledge worker, customer focused, values and respects others, drives to excel, teamwork and collaboration, continuous learning, demonstrates ethical behavior and supportive to change.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

New Water Tender Driver's may be placed on a probationary status, and their Volunteer Fire Chief may limit their responsibilities, increasing duties incrementally, until all necessary training has been completed successfully. Individual experience and performance also will be taken into account prior to assigning volunteers to more complex tasks.

Volunteer Water Tender Driver's serve at the pleasure of the Fire Station and the SDCFA and may be terminated at any time.

SDCFA Water Tender Operators must have a reputation for honesty and trustworthiness. Successful completion of a background investigation conducted by the County of San Diego Department of Human Resources is required. Misdemeanor and/or felony convictions may be disqualifying depending on type, number, severity, and recency. In addition, personal reference and employment information will be verified.

Appointment to this volunteer assignment will be contingent upon successful completion of a pre-assignment medical examination, which includes drug screening. All candidates must demonstrate the ability to perform the essential functions of a Water Tender Operator assignment. The physical characteristics described are representative of those that must be met to successfully perform the essential functions of a volunteer Water Tender Operator. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable an individual with qualified disabilities to perform the essential functions, on a case-by-case basis.

HOW TO APPLY

Applications may be obtained at fire stations within the SDCFA. An online form will be available on the County of San Diego Department of Planning and Land Use website on the San Diego County Fire Authority's page. Completed applications may be submitted to the Fire Chief at the station or the Branch Manager. All required documentation must be submitted with the application.